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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Philippines*: draft resolution

Communication for development

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system", 1/ and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on that report, 2/

Noting the need for the improvement of development communication within the United Nations system to ensure effective inter-agency coordination and cooperation,

Recognizing the pivotal role of communication in the successful implementation of development programmes within the United Nations system and in the improvement of the interaction among actors in development, namely, the organizations, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, Governments and non-governmental organizations,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ A/50/126-E/1995/20, annex.

2/ A/50/126/Add.1-E/1995/20/Add.1, annex.

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Recognizing also the crucial role of the regional commissions in the process of developing communication as an important tool for the development of developing countries,

Recognizing further the need for transparent and system-wide communication coordination within the United Nations system in order to improve the planning, formulation and execution of development programmes to benefit the international community, in particular the developing countries,

Aware of the need to intensify the efforts aimed at further reducing administrative and other related costs in various activities of organizations, agencies, funds and programmes within the United Nations system without adversely affecting the overall effectiveness of programme delivery as regards development programmes of the United Nations system as a development partner in the development of the developing countries,

Noting that the Joint Inspection Unit will be preparing a separate study entitled "A review of telecommunications and related information technologies in the United Nations system",

1. Takes note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system", 1/ and of the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on that report; 2/

2. Recognizes the important role of development communication in enhancing the transparency of system-wide coordination within the United Nations system as a development partner for the development of the developing countries;

3. Also recognizes the need to intensify work on development communication with a view to facilitating inter-agency cooperation and maximizing the impact of the development programmes of the entities concerned;

4. Further recognizes the role of effective communication in disseminating the outcome and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and in ensuring the effective flow of such information to various non-governmental organizations, including grass-roots-level organizations;

5. Regards the informal mechanism of the round-table conferences, which brings together communication experts for development and representatives of the entities of the United Nations including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, as creating an appropriate forum for continuing to explore the appropriate use of communication in enhancing the role of the United Nations system as a development partner and, in this regard, also encourages, as appropriate, involvement of the various organizations, including the regional commissions;

6. Requests the Joint Inspection Unit to include development communication requirements of developing countries in its study entitled "A review of telecommunications and related information technologies in the United Nations system";

7. Emphasizes the need for the organization, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to develop a systematic approach to capacity-building in development communication, particularly with respect to training of fieldworkers and development workers and technicians as well as communication planners and specialists, especially in the developing countries;

8. Invites organizations, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system as well as Governments and the regional commissions to identify focal points for the purpose of facilitating dialogue and exchange of information on development communication so as to strengthen coordination and international cooperation in this area;

9. Calls upon the donor community to provide adequate resources to support and expand development communication activities, particularly development communication initiatives for developing countries and, in this regard, also encourages the use of appropriate funding modalities and mechanisms within the context of international cooperation;

10. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in accordance with this agency's mandate in the field of communication, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.